

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A computer system for assisting a physician comprising computer processor means for processing data; data storage means for storing data on a storage medium; first means for processing data regarding a patient, a diagnosis regarding the patient, and a treatment plan for the patient, for comparing the data against known patient information and against known medical information; and for using such data to (a) generate alarms if the diagnosis or treatment plan is inappropriate and to (b) provide advice regarding the diagnosis and treatment plan; second means for processing data regarding the alarms and advice and for using such data to communicate the alarms and advice to the physician; and third means for processing data regarding the treatment plan and using such data to implement the treatment plan; and fourth means for processing data regarding the patient, the diagnosis regarding the patient, and the treatment plan, and storing such data on the data storage means; and fifth means for processing data through which the patient may retrieve via the Internet data regarding the patient, the diagnosis regarding the patient, and the treatment plan for the patient from the first means for processing data.
2. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for processing data comprises a suggest diagnosis means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to access a suggested diagnosis database to retrieve a suggested diagnosis; and a check diagnosis means for processing data for comparing the diagnosis to the suggested diagnosis and for generating an alarm if there is a substantial difference.

3. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for processing data comprises

a find standard diagnostic criteria means for processing data using a subset of the diagnosis to access a standard diagnosis criteria database to produce a standard diagnosis criteria.

4. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan includes a prescription and the first means for processing data comprises

a get drug data means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the data storage means an identification of other drugs that the patient is taking; and

an interaction checking means for processing data to access a drug interaction database with (a) one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) other drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

5. (original) The computer system of claim 4 wherein the interaction checking means comprises

mitigating means for suggesting methods to mitigate the interaction; and

alternative recommendation means for suggesting alternative drugs with no interaction.

6. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for processing data comprises

a get patient data means for processing data for accessing the data storage means to retrieve stored data regarding the patient;

a find treatment means for processing data for accessing a treatment protocol database using a subset of the patient data and a subset of the stored patient data to retrieve a recommended treatment protocol.

7. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for processing data comprises
  - a get patient data means for processing data for accessing the data storage means to retrieve stored data regarding the patient;
  - a treatment search means for processing data for accessing a treatment recommendation database using a subset of the patient data and a subset of the stored patient data to retrieve a treatment individualization recommendation.
8. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the diagnosis comprises a prescription and the first means for processing data comprises
  - a get lab data means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to acquire laboratory results from a laboratory;
  - a find dosage means for processing data for using the lab results, a subset of the patient data, the prescription and data regarding the patient stored on the data storage means to access a recommended dosage database to produce a recommended dosage for the prescription.
9. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the patient data comprises foods the patient eats, the treatment plan comprises a prescription and the first means for processing data comprises
  - a get drug data means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the data storage means an identification of other drugs that the patient is taking; and
  - an interaction checking means for processing data to access a drug/food interaction database with (a) one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the other drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the foods the patient eats, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

10. (original) The computer system of claim 9 wherein the interaction checking means includes

a recommendation means for recommending a drug that will not have an interaction.

11. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription and radiology tests and the first means for processing data comprises a get drug data means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the data storage means an identification of other drugs that the patient is taking; and

an X-ray compatibility checking means for processing data to access a radiology/drug interaction database with (a) one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the other drugs that the patient is taking, (c) the prescription and (d) the radiology tests from the treatment plan, to produce an alarm if there is an indication of an interaction.

12. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises an order for X-rays and the first means for processing data comprises

a check X-rays means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to acquire laboratory results from a laboratory and for accessing an X-ray contraindication database with the laboratory results and the order for X-rays to produce a contraindication and to process the contraindication to produce an alarm.

13. (original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the check X-rays means for processing data also processes the contraindication to produce a recommendation.

14. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription and the first means for processing data comprises

a get drug data means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to retrieve from a pharmacy one or more drugs prescribed for the patient and from the data storage means an identification of other drugs that the patient is taking; and

a drug cost means for processing data to access a drug cost database with (a) one or more drugs prescribed for the patient, (b) the other drugs that the patient is taking, and (c) the prescription, to produce an alarm if there is an indication that the patient is spending more on drugs than is necessary and to make a recommendation for a lower cost drug.

15. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means for processing data comprises  
a check risks means for processing data using a subset of the patient data to access a risk data base to produce a risk reduction recommendation for the patient.
16. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 1 further comprising  
a fifth means for processing data through which a patient has access to data regarding the patient stored on the storage means.
17. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 16 wherein  
the patient has access to the first means.
18. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 1 wherein  
the third means comprises a personal communicator.
19. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the personal communicator comprises  
a personal digital assistant.
20. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the personal communicator comprises  
a personal computer.

21. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the personal communicator comprises a PC database for storing patient data.
22. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the PC database is protected by a first security system; and the data storage means is protected by a second security system.
23. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 18 1 ~~wherein the further comprising a personal communicator comprises including~~  
a display, the display having comprising  
a red alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a major adverse effect are displayed; and  
a yellow alert area, where alarms regarding the potential for a minor effect or need for closer monitoring are displayed.
24. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the third means communicates with the computer processor means through a communications media.
25. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the communications media is a wireless communications media.
26. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the wireless communications media comprises one or more of the following types of media: RF, optical or infrared.
27. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the communications media is a wired communications media.

28. (cancelled) The computer system of claim 27 wherein  
the wired communications media comprises one or more of the following types of media:  
twisted pair cable, coax cable, or optical cable.
29. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the data stored on the data storage  
means comprises one or more of the following:
  - a suggested diagnosis database;
  - a standard diagnostic criteria database;
  - a drug interaction database;
  - a treatment protocol database;
  - a treatment recommendation database;
  - a recommended dosage database;
  - a radiology/drug interaction database;
  - an X-ray contraindication database;
  - a drug cost database; and
  - a risk database.
30. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the first means has  
access to one or more of the following *via the Internet*:
  - a suggested diagnosis database;
  - a standard diagnostic criteria database;
  - a drug interaction database;
  - a treatment protocol database;
  - a treatment recommendation database;
  - a recommended dosage database;
  - a radiology/drug interaction database;
  - an X-ray contraindication database;
  - a drug cost database; and
  - a risk database.

31. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the third means comprises an ICD determination means for processing a subset of the patient data, a subset of the diagnosis and a subset of the treatment plan to determine an ICD.
32. (original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the treatment plan comprises a prescription and an order, the patient data comprises an ICD, and the third means comprises one or more of the following:
  - a print prescription means for processing data for using the prescription to print a prescription form;
  - an inform pharmacy means for processing data for using the prescription to inform a pharmacy of the prescription;
  - a store data means for processing data to store patient data on a hospital computer;
  - an enter order means for processing data to enter the order in a physician order entry system;
  - a save ICD means for processing data to save the ICD in a business office.
33. (currently amended) A computerized method for providing assistance to a physician who has gathered data from a patient, made a diagnosis, and prepared a treatment plan, ~~the treatment plan comprising one or more of the following: (a) a prescription, (b) radiology tests, (c) X-rays, and (d) a treatment protocol~~, the method being accomplished using a personal communicator, a computer processor coupled to the personal communicator through a communications medium media, a data storage medium media coupled to the computer processor, and ~~Internet~~ resources coupled to the computer processor, the method comprising  
entering patient data, a diagnosis and a treatment plan into the personal communicator;  
~~storing the patient data, diagnosis, and treatment plan on the data storage media;~~  
~~allowing the patient to access via the Internet the patient data, diagnosis, and treatment plan on the data storage media; and~~  
~~comparing the patient data, the diagnosis and the treatment plan against known patient data and against a medical database;~~

selecting, through the personal communicator, one or more of the following actions based on the comparison:

implementing the treatment plan;

~~consulting resources to produce an alarm and a recommendation, displaying an the alarm and a the recommendation, and allowing the physician to revise the diagnosis and treatment plan based on the alarm and the recommendation.~~

34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein implementing the treatment plan comprises one or more of the following

printing a prescription;

informing a pharmacy of the prescription;

storing the patient data, the diagnosis, and the treatment plan on a hospital computer;

entering an order into a physician order entry system; and

saving an ICD in a business office.

35. (cancelled) The method of claim 33 wherein consulting resources to produce an alarm and a recommendation comprises

offering the physician consultation choices;

communicating a subset of the patient data, the diagnosis, the treatment plan and the consultation choice to the computer processor;

processing the patient data, the diagnosis and the treatment plan in accordance with the consultation choice to produce alarms and advice;

communicating the alarms and advice to the personal communicator.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein ~~the step of comparing processing the patient data, the diagnosis and the treatment plan in accordance with the consultation choice to produce alarms and advice~~ comprises performing one or more of the following actions:

checking the accuracy of the diagnosis;

reviewing standard diagnostic criteria;

checking the appropriateness of prescribed medication;  
reviewing recommended treatment protocols;  
reviewing individualization recommendations;  
recommending dose adjustments;  
checking for adverse medication interactions;  
checking for adverse food interactions;  
checking for adverse medication/radiology interactions;  
checking for X-ray contraindications;  
checking the cost of prescribed medications;  
transferring clinical notes to medical records;  
reviewing standard immunization protocols; and  
recommending routine screening measures.

37. (original) The method of claim 34 further comprising  
accepting clinical notes regarding the patient.

38. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein accepting the clinical notes comprises  
recording a spoken rendering of the clinical notes.